

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC.

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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The shoe-manufacturing industry of Massachusetts is the first among the chief manufactures of New England to realize a general (even tho' a slow) recovery from the commercial depression of the past two years. "In the shoe business, United States dealers have now," says the *Evangelist*, "very nearly their old confidence, and a few months hence we shall probably see fully the beneficial effects of this."

The people of Jamaica are desirous of securing reciprocal trade with Canada, and we see no good reason why their wish in this respect should not be heartily seconded by the Dominion government. Free trade with Jamaica would have a most beneficial influence upon the trade of this province, and would act as a powerful tonic upon the languishing business of Halifax.

It is computed that the strength of the standing armies and reserves of Europe now make a total of 19,355,461 fighting men. The sooner the world becomes civilized enough to realize that the cost of maintaining these millions of combatants is, and must always be borne by the commercial, industrial, and agricultural classes, so much the sooner will honest industry reap the full and just reward of its labour.

Should the government of the United States decide to discontinue the coinage of silver, the intrinsic value of this metal will probably decrease about twenty-five per cent. The value of the world's annual product of silver is about one hundred and ten million dollars, of which forty-six millions worth is produced in the United States. The United States government annually purchases billion to the value of twenty-eight million dollars.

The Montreal Chamber of Commerce is now urging the Dominion government to abolish the canal tolls which they claim to be the cause of the present stagnation of the grain trade of that city. No doubt free water way has a tendency to develop trade and commerce, but when this communication is artificial and has been secured by the expenditure of millions of money some one must pay for the interest on the outlay. If this be not borne by the shippers of Montreal it must rest upon the shoulders of the people in general; somebody must pay the piper.

Miss Elizabeth Cleveland, the sister of President Cleveland, has been lately writing letters on temperance that have attracted much notice. She has had a newspaper tournament with Dr Howard Crosby, Chancellor of New York University, in which she hits hard the Doctor's hobby of "free beer and high license." She advocates tee-totalism, "prohibitory legislation with regard to liquor. The President being unmarried, Miss Cleveland is mistress of the White House. She is an authoress, and a new book of hers is to be published next week. Her style is pleasing and scholarly—more so than that of many American writers of the other sex—but if it were not occasionally so elaborately flowery, it would to many be still more acceptable.

The failure of the New Orleans Exposition to come up to the expectations of its projectors and patrons has been variously attributed to its distance from the great centres of population, to delays in completing the buildings and perfecting exhibits, to bad weather, to lack of transportation facilities, insufficient accommodations, high railroad fares and rate of board, etc. Anything else?

An effort is now being made by the British Government to purchase from the French the privileges which are secured to them upon the coast of Newfoundland by formal treaty. The presence of this foreign element has been a constant source of annoyance to the inhabitants of that ancient colony, and it is time in the interests of peace and good government that the rights of the French to monopolize the best fish-drying portions of the coast of Newfoundland should cease to exist.

The anti-slavery society in Great Britain are naturally disappointed at the result of the expedition to Khartoum, and strenuous efforts are now being made to awaken an interest in the Soudanese question. It is to be hoped that some scheme may be evolved by which the cruel slave-trade of the Upper Nile may be prevented. Philanthropy may do much, but it is not all-powerful, and for the present, at least, it is difficult to see what action could be taken by the society that would forever stamp out this iniquitous traffic in human beings.

If the prestige of the Mounted Police stationed in the Canadian North-West has been sufficient in past years to enable a comparative handful of men to overawe and hold in check the semi-barbarous Indian tribes of that region, that prestige must have suffered severely during the recent rebellion, and it is doubtful whether the Indian warriors will ever again learn to respect and dread a body of men, who, in the hour of danger, were content to simply act upon the defensive, preferring the comparative safety of the forts to exposure and danger in the field.

The iron and steel industries in the United States west of the Alleghenies have recently shut down owing to the strike of upwards of one hundred thousand workmen, consequent upon a reduction of from twenty to twenty-five per cent. in the wages paid the employees. The loss to the employers, which results from the closing of their foundries and mills is very great, but the production of steel and iron goods at the present market price would be ruinous. The immediate outlook in this trade is far from encouraging.

The three provinces of British Borneo which were confederated in 1862, since which time they have been controlled by the Indian government, are now agitating the question of separating from India, in which case they would be formed into a crown colony. The merchants of Rangoon are now pressing this matter upon the consideration of the British Minister, claiming that the best interests of the province would be served thereby. Neglect upon the part of the Indian government is the assignable reason of this movement.

Most of our readers have heard of Mr. Frothinguysen who lately died at his home in Newark, New Jersey. After this distinguished statesman's term of office as Secretary of State to President Arthur's Cabinet had expired, and he had retired to his home, he made this very significant remark in reply to an interviewing reporter. "My only desire is to live a useful life among my old neighbors—this yields more happiness than politics." The significance of this remark arises mainly from the fact that he who made it had filled with a success that elicited almost universal applause various high offices of State, and as a public man had won more popular approbation than is usually bestowed on partizan office-holders. His last official services were in the most honourable position—with the single exception of the Presidential Chair—in the gift of his country. Yet he finally concluded that his highest earthly happiness could follow from his leading a quiet, useful life, in his own town, among his old neighbors.

Owing to the fears freely expressed since a few weeks that the French-Canadian clergy would make a stubborn effort to secure Louis Riel's acquittal, many will be pleased to hear that Riel is being strongly denounced by some of the most prominent and influential of that body. Even Archbishop Tache, of St. Boniface, Manitoba, who was at one time believed by many to entertain some sympathy for the rebel leader, has been, it appears, ever since the beginning of the insurrection, free enough, tho' moderate, in his condemnation of it and all its promoters. The *Catholic Herald* thus refers to the utterances of His Grace on this head when he was in Ottawa subsequent to the capture of Riel:

"He expresses freely his sense of the folly of Riel's conduct, and has no sympathy with the rebel in his defeat and imprisonment. He regards Riel as an enemy of the Catholic Church, and a dangerous man to any community in which he is permitted to vent his crochets and ambitious aims."